

PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING A COMPOSITE ARTICLE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A process for manufacturing a composite article which includes at least one part fabricated from metal and/or plastic material is described. The process includes: (a) placing a part (1, 1') into a mold (not shown); and (b) closing the mold and concurrently deforming at least a portion of the edge region (2, 2') of at least one part (1, 1'), thus forming a deformed edge region (11, 14, 17). The deformed edge region may be selected from: (i) at least one aligned edge region (17) which includes at least two edge portions (6, 6') that are aligned side-by-side; and/or (ii) at least one abutting edge region (11, 14) which includes two edge regions (2, 2') abutting one over the other. In a subsequent step (c), plastic material (4) is introduced (e.g., injected) into the mold and over the deformed edge region (11, 14, 17). The combination of the concurrent deformation of the edge portions (2, 2') and molding of plastic material (4) over the deformed edge regions (11, 14, 17) serves to fixedly attach the edge regions (2, 2') of the deformed edge region (11, 14, 17) together, thus forming the composite article.